

Remarks/Arguments

The Rejection of Claim 1 Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

The Examiner rejected Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,678,014 (Owen et al.). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection as follows.

Anticipation requires that all of the elements of the claim be taught within the four corners of a single reference.

Owen does not teach a flange fixedly mounted on said case

Owen does not teach the amended Claim 1 limitation: "...a flange fixedly mounted on said case ...". A flange is defined as: "a rib or rim for strength, for guiding, or for attachment to another object <a *flange* on a pipe> <a *flange* on a wheel>." (Merriam-Webster On-line Dictionary). In contrast, Owen teaches a nozzle: "Accordingly, inflator 10 includes a generally tapered nozzle 44 which is configured for detachable connection to the associated inflatable article." (col. 5, lines 55-57). A nozzle is defined as: "a : a projecting vent of something b : a short tube with a taper or constriction used (as on a hose) to speed up or direct a flow of fluid." (Merriam-Webster On-Line Dictionary). A nozzle is not a flange. Flanges have significant structural and functional differences and advantages with respect to nozzles. Thus, Claim 1 recites structure (a flange) not taught by Owen.

Further, Owen does not teach fixedly mounting the nozzle to a case: "Significantly, inflator 10 is configured such that nozzle 44 can be *removably* secured to either end of housing 26." (col. 5, lines 57-59) "...housing 26 is provided with integrally formed means for removably securing the nozzle 44 to either end of the housing. (col. 6, lines 2-4). "Referring now to FIGS. 6 through 8, therein is illustrated a modified embodiment of the present inflating/deflating device, including a reversibly positionable, detachable nozzle 144..." (col. 6, lines 21-24). Owen teaches a removable nozzle for every embodiment of his invention. Thus, Claim 1 recites structure (a fixedly mounted flange) not taught by Owen.

Owen does not teach all the elements of Claim 1. Therefore, Owen cannot anticipate Claim 1, and Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claim 1 be removed.

Rejection of Claims 3-5 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Examiner rejected Claims 3-5 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,678,014 (Owen et al.) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,422,560 (Yan).

To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Also, the prior art references cited by the Examiner must teach or suggest the claim limitations of the subject invention.

As shown above, Owen does not teach all the elements of Claim 1. Nor does Owen suggest the Claim 1 element of: “a flange fixedly mounted on said case ...” The very crux of Owen is a removable nozzle. Owen goes to great length to argue the advantages of a removable nozzle. “Significantly, inflator 10 is configured such that nozzle 44 can be *removably* secured to either end of housing 26.” (col. 5, lines 57-59). In fact, Owen’s disclosure regarding a removable nozzle teaches against a fixedly mounted nozzle. Yan does not cure the defects of Owen. Yan teaches a battery charger.

Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 1 is patentable over Owen in view of Yan. Claims 3-5, dependent from Claim 1, also are patentable over the cited references and reconsideration of the rejection is requested.

The Objection of Claim 2 as Being Dependent Upon a Rejected Base Claim

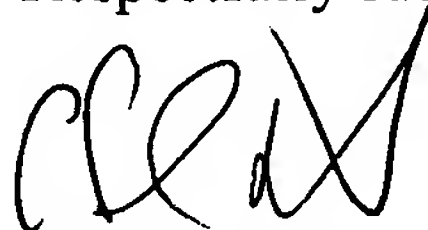
Claim 2 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but the Examiner indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 2 depends from Claim 1. Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 1 is patentable over the prior art. Therefore, Claim 2 is not dependent from a rejected base claim and Applicant requests that the objection to Claim 2 be removed.

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Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance, which action is courteously requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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